## Message Text

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O 251625Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8997
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL QUEBEC IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: FEDERAL BYELECTION RESULTS

- 1. LIBERAL VICTORIES IN VERDUN AND TERREBONNE SEEN HERE AS, BASICALLY, AFFIRMATION OF FEDERALISM ALTHOUGH TERREBONNE'S COMTOIS GIVES CREDIT TO TRUDEAU AND HIS GOVERNMENT. FACT THAT LIBERALS' SHARE OF VOTE (56 O/O) APPROXIMATES 59 O/O THAT VOTED AGAINST PQ IN RECENT PROVINCIAL ELECTION PROBABLY A COINCIDENCE BUT SUPPORTS "FEDERALISM" ARGUMENT.
- 2. PQ INFLUENCE NOT DISCERNIBLE. IT SEEMS PROBABLY, HOWEVER, THAT NDP SUPPORT IN VERDUN INCLUDED SUBSTANTIAL NON-SEPARATIST PQ VOTERS AS SOCIAL INTERESTS TEND COINCIDE. DESPITE CROWING OVER GREAT BREAKTHROUGH BY NSP'S EDMONSTON, FACT REMAINS THAT IN LIGHT TURNOUT LIBERAL SAVARD WON BY ALMOST TWO-TO-ONE.
- 3. LOCAL FORMER TORY LEADERSHIP CANDIDATE, BRIAN MULRONEY, PRAISED CLARK'S PERFORMANCE ON RADIO STATING, INTER ALIA, THAT "NO ONE COULD HAVE DONE A BETTER JOB." OTHER PC SUPPORTERS FEEL NO ONE COULD HAVE DONE WORSE, DESPITE IMPROVED SHARE OF VOTE OVER LAST FEDERAL ELECTION. VIEW IS THAT IMMEDIATE OUSTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT LIKELY BUT CLARK'S CHOICE OF QUEBEC CITY FOR FALL CONVENTION MAY WELL RESULT IN QUEBEC DELEGATION BEING PACKED BY WAGNER SUPPORTERS WHO WOULD BE PROMPTED MAKE LEADERSHIP AN ISSUE.

4. AS SIDELIGHT, IN DISCUSSION OF CLARK'S PROBABLE LOW MORALE TODAY, THE COMMENT WAS MADE THAT THE PERSON MOST UNHAPPY THIS MORNING LIKELY BE JOHN TURNER.

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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